

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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R 211114Z MAY 76
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6966

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SNAR TH
SUBJ: JOINT NARCOTICS EVALUATION

REF: A) STATE 121807 B) BANGKOK 12486

1. THE MISSION WELCOMES DEPARTMENT'S DECISION TO MOVE AHEAD WITH THE HELICOPTER STAGE OF THE JOINT U.S.-RTG NARCOTICS EVALUATION. WE WILL CONTACT THE THAI AT THE EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY TO INITIATE THE EVALUATION.

2. THE AMBASSADOR AND THE DCM, IN ADDITION TO THEIR PLANNED DEMARCHES TO PRINCIPAL RTG DECISION MAKERS, ALSO PLAN TO APPROACH OTHER HIGH-LEVEL RTG OFFICIALS TO INFORM THEM OF THE EVALUATION AND TO DISCUSS ITS AIMS WITH THEM. THE AMBASSADOR AND DCM WILL GO OVER THE EVALUATION WITH NITHIPHAT CHALICHAN, SECRETARY GENERAL IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, THE DEPUTY INTERIOR MINISTER IN CHARGE OF THE POLICE, AND POLICE GENERAL SISUK MAHINTHARATHEP, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE TNPD. WE HOPE TO MAINTAIN THE INTEREST OF THESE SENIOR THAI OFFICIALS IN THE PROGRESS OF THE EVALUATION BY KEEPING THEM WELL INFORMED OF EACH STAGE. WE DO NOT BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT OFFICIALS AT THIS LEVEL WOULD AGREE TO SIT IN ANY OF THE ACTUAL EVALUATION MEETINGS AS PROPOSED IN REF A. FOR THAT MATTER, EVEN IF IT WERE POSSIBLE TO DRAW THEM INTO THE EVALUATION SESSIONS, THEIR PRESENCE WOULD SO INHIBIT THE OTHER LOWER RANKING THAI THAT ALL PRODUCTIVE DIALOGUE WOULD CEASE. THIS IS STANDARD THAI BEHAVIOR THAT WE HAVE WITNESSED IN VIRTUALLY

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ALL MEETINGS WHEN SENIOR AND IMPORTANT OFFICIALS ARE PRESENT.

3. WE HAVE RESERVATIONS ABOUT INCLUDING SPECIFIC AGENDA ITEMS ON THE POLITICAL AND SOCIAL ASPECTS OF THE NARCOTICS PROBLEM. EACH OF OUR PROPOSED AGENDAS WILL HAVE TO BE ACCEPTED BY THE THAI BEFORE WE CAN PROCEED. IT SEEMS TO US THAT INCLUDING AN AGENDA HEADING SUCH AS "CORRUPTION" IS A SURE WAY TO MAKE THE THAI RECONSIDER THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE EVALUATION. RATHER, WE WOULD PLAN TO INTRODUCE THESE SUBJECTS AT APPROPRIATE PARTS OF THE EVALUATION. FOR EXAMPLE, IN DISCUSSION OF POLICE EFFECTIVENESS WE WOULD RAISE THE MATTER OF CORRUPTION, ASKING THE THAI IF IT IS A MAJOR PROBLEM IN LOWERING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT. WE WOULD TRY TO DRAW OUT FROM THE THAI SUGGESTIONS TO IMPROVE THE SITUATION. WE DOUBT THAT MUCH WILL EMERGE FROM THIS TYPE OF EFFORT BUT WE WILL AT LEAST REITERATE OUR POINT.

4. WE WILL, OF COURSE, KEEP THE DEPARTMENT INFORMED OF THE PROGRESS OF THE HELICOPTER EVALUATION. WE WILL ALSO FORWARD DRAFT AGENDAS ON THE OTHER STAGES OF THE EVALUATION AS THEY ARE DEVELOPED.

WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

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